

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: College Possible

Application ID: 13ES146025

Program Name: College Possible Omaha

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

- (+) The applicant provides statistics about low-income students in Nebraska and the Omaha metro area. The applicant demonstrates a high-need population in a high-need area and the services that are proposed in the application can address the issue of college enrollment for them.
- (+) The applicant gives specific examples of Member activities, including meeting twice per week for two hours per session over the two-year program in order to prepare high school students with the academic skills necessary to succeed in college. These services are closely aligned with the stated goal of getting students in to college.
- (+) The applicant is utilizing the College Possible interventions that are evidence-based and supported by research-based findings in three key areas: academic/standardized test preparation, college application assistance, and financial aid and FAFSA assistance. The applicant expects to see far more low-income students being academically prepared for college, earning college admission, and graduating from college by the end of the three-year grant cycle.
- (+) The applicant shows measureable impact by stating how many youth they will serve in both their high school and college programs within the three-year grant period.
- (-) Although the applicant identifies past successes with Member recruitment and retention, the proposal does not clearly articulate what the organization will accomplish that could not be accomplished through existing staff or volunteers.
- (-) The applicant did not quantify the expected measurable change to the community that was to be seen by the end of this three-year grant period.